

appear in late May or June, often mixed in flocks of the superabundant *variegata*, and are subsequently present until the following September or October. Numbers vary greatly from year to year, with sometimes no more than scattered singletons in a whole season, whereas in other years they may be seen in monospecific flocks of more than a dozen together. Exceptionally high counts were of 200+ in an hour off Mollendo, 28 June 1977, and 400–500 on and around islets at Morro Sama, dep. Tacna (18°S), 29 July 1984, almost within sight of the Peru–Chile border. This annual post-breeding dispersal of juveniles bears no apparent relation to the prevailing oceanic conditions and is a regular event involving varying numbers of birds.

In some years, when the coast is affected by the warm and nutrient-poor waters of *El Niño*, there is an influx of *nebouxii*, adults as well as immatures, into south Peruvian waters and in such anomalous years, such as 1983, the birds may be seen any time between January and May. During intense incursions of *El Niño* sporadic breeding has been reported from islands off central Peru, such as the Chinchas off dep. Ica (13°40'S) (Koepcke & Koepcke 1963, *Las Aves de Importancia Económica del Perú*), but not, insofar as is known, from farther south.

The presence of *Sula nebouxii* along the south coast of Peru would therefore appear to depend on two quite different circumstances: an annual post-breeding dispersal of juveniles irrespective of prevailing oceanic conditions, and occasional influxes of adults and immatures when the influences of *El Niño* are especially strong.

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R. A. HUGHES

11 August 1991

We heard with regret that Mr Hughes died shortly after submitting this note—ED.

COURTSHIP FEEDING IN THE ORANGE-BREASTED FRUIT-EATER

PIPREOLA JUCUNDA

The Andes of southern Colombia and Ecuador are the home of the Orange-breasted Fruit-eater *Pipreola jucunda*. Like other members of its genus, these birds are largely frugivorous, regularly taking a variety of fruits and occasionally feeding on insects. Little is known about the breeding of these montane forest cotingas, except that they generally live in pairs and both sexes attend the nest (Snow 1982, *The Cotingas*). Here I report what appears to be the only published account of courtship and breeding of *P. jucunda* in the wild.

On 31 July 1988, while watching a fruiting *Miconia* tree in subtropical montane forest at the La Planada reserve in southwestern Colombia, I noticed a female fruit-eater perching on a branch under the canopy of the tree. A few minutes later a male flew in and alighted on the same branch.

In his bill he held a large lauraceous fruit, which he offered to the female. After she had swallowed it, I witnessed a copulation that lasted a few seconds, after which the male flew away. Shortly after, the female started feeding on the *Miconia* fruits.

The following day I returned to the same fruiting tree. Soon a female, apparently the same individual, came in and perched on the same branch I had been watching the previous day. After about 20 minutes the male arrived, offered another fruit of the same kind as before to the female, then copulated with her. This time the female flew away first, to a tree about 10 m away, and disappeared among the mass of epiphytes growing over the trunk. Later that morning I saw the two birds fly to exactly the same place, 5 m above the ground on a large trunk thickly covered with epiphytes. The female was carrying moss, evidently to a nest, but I was unable to examine it closely because of the masses of epiphytes on the trunk.

As far as I know, this is the first definite report of courtship feeding of any of the cotingas in the wild. In captivity, Everitt (1963, *Avic. Mag.* 69: 141–144) and Lint & Dolan (1966, *Avic. Mag.* 72: 18–20) observed male fruit-eaters (*P. riefferii* and *P. jucunda*) feeding incubating females, and also (*P. jucunda*) before the eggs were laid. Skutch (1989, *Ibis* 131: 303–304) reported what was apparently courtship feeding in the Rufous Piha *Lipaugus unirufus*, but did not observe copulation. Snow (*loc. cit.*) has evidence that courtship feeding perhaps occurs in the genus *Carpornis*, which is probably quite closely related to *Pipreola*.

I am grateful to Alexander F. Skutch, Barbara Snow and David W. Snow for encouraging me to write this note and for helpful comments on an earlier draft.

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CRISTIÁN SAMPER K.

30 September 1991

A RECORD OF GREAT KNOT *CALIDRIS TENUIROSTRIS* FROM MAURITIUS, INDIAN OCEAN

The largest concentration of waders on the Mascarene Islands, western Indian Ocean, occurs at Terre Rouge estuary, Mauritius (20°08'S, 57°30'E), a small (0.5 km²), polluted, tidal mudflat close to Port Louis, the capital city. African Waterfowl Census counts at Terre Rouge in 1991–1992 revealed up to 1201 waterbirds of which about 80% were Curlew Sandpipers *Calidris ferruginea* (Perennou 1991; pers. obs.).

On 28 December 1990 I found a single Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* in a mixed flock of waders on the southern shore of Terre Rouge estuary. I watched it for one hour at ranges down to 20 m through a 25X telescope,